

ライアーゲーム LIAR GAME

GATE



甲斐谷忍

YJ
ヤングジャンプ
YJC

LIAR GAME
ライアーゲーム



甲斐谷忍

集英社



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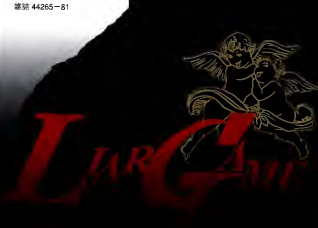
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It's the second Revival Round, where defeat means permanent removal from the LGT Tournament. To Akiyama and Nao, who've taken on enormous debts to save their teammates from the third stage, losing simply isn't an option. Fukunaga's opening Vanguard Battle ends in a draw, leaving Akiyama up next to do combat with the mysterious Centerfielder, Kikuchi. They play an unusual variation of poker called "Seventeen Card Poker." Akiyama finds himself hanging on for dear life as Kikuchi employs his secret no-fail strategy... But right then, the "miracle-worker" Akiyama goes on the offensive, pulling a magnificent display that's about to turn this entire game around!!





VIII

LIAR-GAME

6.10.2009 KALLIOPE
POPELONIA



LIAR GAME⑧ 甲斐谷 忍

LIAR GAME⑧ ⑧	甲斐谷 忍
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雷族力者 小園遊園子の怪⑧ ⑧	甲斐谷 忍
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VIII

LIAR-GAME

shinobu kaitani
presents



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L IAR GAME

VIII

甲斐谷忍

shingon kaitani presents

LライアARゲームGAME



VIII

LIAR-GAME

shinbun
press

Chapter 71 - Divine Sight	2
Chapter 72 - Counterattack	21
Chapter 73 - Intuition	39
Chapter 74 - Request	57
Chapter 75 - Luck	75
Chapter 76 - Ruse	93
Chapter 77 - General	112
Chapter 78 - Coercion	131
Chapter 79 - Fuller	149
Chapter 80 - Secret Maneuver	167
Chapter 81 - Distrust	185
Chapter 82 - Surrender	203
Chapter 83 - Ambition	221

r o n t e n t s

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to real people, organizations, or groups is purely coincidental.

GAME
中絶版

Chapter 71
Divine Sight





TIME
OUT!

T-



Haah!?



I
wouldn't
be too
sure.

Dis-
no...



This
'Confidential'
battle will be
a cinch!

You're off
to a great
start, Mr.
Akiyama!



Then
why'd
you lose
twice??

Idiot!!
Didn't I tell
you? I found
a sure way
to win this
game!



Why did
you call
a time
out?

O-Oh, you
know... you
lost twice,
so I got
worried..



?

Because these
terms were
necessary steps
to perfect my
method.

to get the
Joker into
my hand,

every
single
time.

—
Yes, the
perfect
method
—

To put it another
way, knowing the
Joker's location
gives you complete
control of the game.

I'm sure you
recognize that
the player with
the Joker has an
overwhelming
advantage.

Let me explain
the details on
how I came up
with the trick.

Okay,
okay.

Look, that's
great and all,
but I find this
all hard to
believe!

Just
then
—

— But

But
deep
down, I
doubted
there
was
one.

while
pondering
to myself,
"There's
got to be
a trick
I can
exploit to
win this!"

It was back
during the
simulation
game's third
hand. I
happened to
be looking at
the dealer...

I managed to spot the card at the bottom of the deck.



In the split second the dealer switched from a Rife® to a Riffe® shuffle,

* Rife Shuffle - The deck is broken in half with each hand and interlaced to mix the cards.

* Riffe Shuffle - A very common shuffle. The hand holds part of the deck while the other repeatedly drops several cards from the lower portion and brings them to the top.

At first I thought that was pointless. "I can't identify the card off of that!"



... To be precise, I saw a blank corner flash by.

It's
Seventeen
Card Poker.



But... this
game isn't
regular
poker.

That means the only cards that could possibly appear to have a blank corner...



Essentially, the majority of cards have complicated designs printed on them.



The 17 cards are divided into 12 court cards, 4 Aces, and a Joker.



must
either be
the Aces
or the
Joker!

so that I
wouldn't lose
sight of the
card during
the shuffle.

Thinking it
was worth
a shot, I
concentrated
hard...

Yes.. It's only
one card... but
knowing a single
card's location
could give me a
big advantage.

The dealer
shuffles at
lightning
speed!

You
say you
followed
the card
with your
eyes? No way!

I don't
buy
that!

Stop!

Because
he's...

If
anyone
can do
it, he
can.

He's got
a dynamic
visual soulfy
that's out of
this world!



a former
bantamweight
boxer, who
made it all
the way to
Japan's #1 rank.

Thanks
to that, I
became able
to dodge
an ordinary
boxer's
punches just
moments
before they
landed.



Training
my dynamic
visual soulfy
was one of
those methods.

I was never
very strong,
and was
incapable of
throwing a
KO punch, so
I instead drilled
my technique.

I supposed I'd have
fit... in the
"technician"
class of
boxing.



And that's why,
despite having a
weak punch, I achieved
the #1 rank... just one
step away from the
title of champion.



And
needless
to say,
I was
forced to
retire.



Unfortunately,
my style of watching
punches to the last
second brought my
own downfall. I
suffered a ritual
detachment.

That's why following a single card during a shuffle is like child's play to me.

But my dynamic visual acuity is as good as ever.



My hand after the third round looked like this.

Getting back on topic.

The reason why...



I only discarded my Jack method.



If it weren't for this idea, I'd have already discarded my Ace and Jack, but...

Let's see...

then it would make my hand into a Full House, or Four-of-a-Kind.

If my estimation was right, and the top card on the deck was an Ace or a Joker,



is because I knew that the card I saw flash by earlier had risen to the top of the deck.

I'VE GOT
A PERFECT
FULL
HOUSE!!

I WAS
RIGHT!!



And even
if I saw it, if
that card was
a court card,
it'd be of no
help at all.



After all, I
had no basis
to believe
I'd get a
glance at a
card every
shuffle.

But
this trick
still wasn't
enough to
guarantee
a win.



That turn proved
to me that knowing
the position of even
a single card was
an astronomical
advantage.



the
card at the
bottom of
the deck!



I saw it
again.

during
the fourth
hand's
shuffle.



However
...

I had
a flash
of
inspiration.

And
then,

It had to
be either
an Ace or
a Joker
once again.



I was
sure it
was
another
"white"
card.

But
...



Again, it was
only a split
second... and
so expected, it
wasn't enough to
identify which
card it was.

starts with the same card order every round, right out of the box?

What if this game...

The cards are always in some sort of regular arrangement.

I'm sure you've opened a new case of trump cards before, right?

... Putting the two together,

And at the start of the next one, a brand new pack is opened.

This game prevents marking cards to cheat by throwing them away at the end of each hand.

that meant the card I was about to chase for this fourth shuffle...

But it was still all speculation. Since the card I had chased in the previous hand turned out to be the Ace of Spades,

I figured this game's cards must be in the exact same sequence every time they come out of the pack.

Just like a newly purchased box of cards.

A
♠



would also
have to be the
Ace of Spades...
to prove my
theory true.



So, I stared intently at
the dealer's shuffle,
chasing the bottommost
card with my trademark
vision to see where it
would end up.



Things weren't that
easy, however. Once
the Eastern Army cut
second, that white
card was pushed
back near the
bottom of the deck.

It was,
in fact,
the
ACE OF SPADES.



The
end
result
?



I had no
choice, since
the only way
to prove my
theory was to
see that card.

I was forced
to make the
bold move of
discarding
four cards
to reach it.



I discarded
four cards

Not only that,
I now know the
last card in the
deck is the Ace
of Spades!



My idea was
spot on! The
cards used in
this game are in
the same order
every round!

Exactly!



Based on
that information,
you can figure
out where the
Joker fell!

I see
what
you're
saying!



Meaning,
the last
two cards
of the deck
are spades.



The
Jack of
Spades.

During the
simulation game's
fifth hand, I followed
the next to the last
card.



And
guess
what it
was!

My
first idea
was to
determine
the card
next to the
last.



So I've spent
the rounds
after that
trying to
determine
the Joker's
location.

If I
could figure
out what it
was, I could
determine
the kind of
arrangement
the cards
were in.

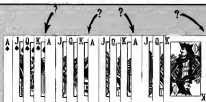




Based on that,
I hypothesized that the
card order might
be something like
the following:

Go the
next
question
was.

Uh,
play



What, among
this sequence,
might the Joker
be? That was my
new objective.

and that
was when
you first
said we can
win this.

I was forced to
carry this critical
hunch over into the
actual game...

Unfortunately,
the simulation
had ended
there.

And the results
are as you already
know: I lost two
hands right off
the bat, as well as
50 of our chips.



In order to perfect
my strategy...
In order to locate the
Joker, I'd have to
sacrifice the first
couple of hands.
I entered the first
round with that
determination.

I managed
to find
the Joker
at last!



... But in
exchange,

And
it is...



Yes, without
a doubt! If
you think I'm
lying, wait until
you see my
next hand.

ARE
YOU
SERI-
OUS?



so I'll ask
for just the
right number
of cards to
have the
Joker land in
my hand!

I'm
second
to cut
the deck
the next
round,



the
very
first
card
in the
deck!



In fact,
I'll make it
come as the
last card
dealt to me!



The Joker's
at the top of
that stack,
huh?



Okay,
gentlemen!
It's time to
deal our
third hand!







Notes

by shrimp

Bantamweight

Boxing: A combat sport where two participants fist-fight one another. Bouts usually last 3 minutes apiece, the winner being determined by KO, points, or referee decision.

You probably knew that. But what you may not know is the specific weight class mentioned here. To be specific, the range of weight classes in general go something like this:

Flyweight < Bantamweight < Featherweight < Lightweight < Welterweight < Middleweight < Cruiserweight < Heavyweight

"Woah" is right. That's a whole lotta nit-picking over a few pounds difference. But it's necessary to try to make matches more fair. Back in the olden days, apparently, they'd give no attention to weight classes and fighters would die left and right in the ring (pining a heavyweight against a flyweight, who knew? :_:_)

In any case, weight classes may vary all over the place depending on the league and/or event. The Olympics, for instance, define Bantamweight as between 112-119 lbs (or 51-54 kg).

Dynamic Visual Acuity

Unless you're in sports or an eye-related field, chances are you have never heard of this. (Or, played the DS game "Flash focus" :P)

If you've been to the eye doc, you probably remember reading a chart of letters from big to small, then he or she tells you your vision is 20-something. In English, 20/20 vision means at 20 feet you can read a letter an average person should be able to resolve. That's what visual acuity is all about. But few realize this is actually a test of static visual acuity, which means standing still.

Then what's with the dynamic part? You guessed it--motion. Dynamic Visual Acuity is "the ability to resolve the details of an object while there is relative motion between the target and the observer." Some athletes train their visual acuities to gain a competitive edge, much like this chapter alluded to. In fact, if you've rewatched One Out's by now, you may remember the player Iwaki. His prized dynamic visual acuity allowed him to actually read Tokuchi's low-spin fastballs, predicting their eventual destination. Shinobu's really done his homework, and it shows.

Oh, and just in case you're wondering, the fastest the human eye can track a moving object seems to be at about 40 degrees/second. Beyond that, the eye begins to saccade, or make discreet "jumps," to re-fixate the object. Most vision training techniques and dynamic visual acuity measurements utilize a rotating pegboard of varying speeds.

Retinal Detachment

Last but not least, a word about Kikuchi's unfortunate accident.

The retina is the light-capturing tissue in the back of the eye. Through a very complex series of chemical reactions, photoreceptors transform a photon of light into chemical and electrical energy that is transferred to the occipital cortex, where our vision centers lie. When the retina peels off the back of the eye, that's called a retinal detachment. It can be a very serious, sight-threatening condition. In most cases though, if caught early enough, it can be treated with little complications.

That being said, there are multiple types of detachments. Suffice to say Kikuchi's was most likely a tractional retinal detachment. The vitreous, or a jelly-like layer in the back of the eye, acts as a sort of shock absorber. Sometimes, though, an injury may cause this vitreous to tug at its attachments on the retina and pull it off or tear it. Blows to the head are a very common cause of such an event.



RIGHT
ON!

The Western
Army wins
nineteen
chips!!

The Western
Army's Kikuchi
has managed
to repel
Akayama's
attack with a
Full House!!

Chapter 70
Counterattack

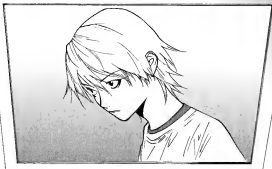
But for him to
use that trick to
determine the
Joker's location
is... Kikaku...
spectacular!

I anticipated he'd
be able to memorize
a card's location with
a mere glance using
that incredible
dynamic acuity
of his...

Kikaku...
That's
Kikuchi
for you

Not even
the mighty
Akayama can
stop him!

It truly
is the
perfect
strategy.



Chapter 72
Counterattack







Does
it really
provide
that much
of an ad-
vantage?



Kikuchi was
just telling us
that knowing
the Joker's
location makes
this game
impossible to
lose... but...

What's
wrong?



Call.



I bet
again.



starting
with you Mr.
Kikuchi

Please
place
your first
bets.



Kikuchi can't change the order of the cards to make the Joker come to him.

... So that means...

Like, don't you see? Since Kikuchi just won, that means Akiyama gets the last out this hand.



No, not at all.

So doesn't that make the odds 50-50 for who gets the Joker in the end?



That's not the only potential situation in this game, right?

But, that's only true in the event that one of them actually gets the Joker in the initial hand.



And as the present situation stands, Kikuchi doesn't have it.

No, definitely.

You're right that by having Akiyama cut last, the odds of getting a Joker on the first hand are roughly 50-50.



You're saying there's a 7/87 chance that it's still in there!

I forgot all about that! It's possible to get the Joker from the remaining deck of seven cards...



Right now, Akiyama may not have the Joker, now?

Oh, right!



It's also possible that either of them gets the Joker in the initial hand.



Nope.

So the odds are 50-50 after all!

But even so, that Joker could still go to either one of 'em, right?



There's not a chance Akiyama can get the Joker.

As long as Kikuchi gets to discard first.



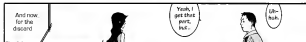
100% guaranteed that the Joker's your last!

Since Kikuchi knows that it's there.



Let's say the first card in the remaining deck is the Joker.

Eh?!



And now for the discard.

Yeah, I get that part, but...

Uh-huh.



...the FBI...

How many cards will you trade?

Mr. Kikuchi.



exchange
all five
cards!!



For-
fu-
fu-

It's
simple.

ALL FIVE
CARDS!
WHY?

WHAAT?



The Joker
is the fifth
card in the
remaining
deck.



Since Kikuchi knew
the Joker was the
fifth card down, all
he had to do was
discard his entire
hand to get it.

I'm sure
that made
the point.

AH!

Kikuchi is
guaranteed
to get it.

In short, as
long as the
Joker is anywhere
from the 1st to
5th card in
the deck,



— Thus,
Akiyama
will only
trade at
most three
cards.

If you had
One Pair on
the first hand,
normally you'd
only trade the
other three
cards, right?

The nature of
Seventeen Card
Poker ensures you'll
have at least a
pair at the start
of the round.



Right. No
matter where
the Joker is
in the leftover
deck, he won't
get it.

So long as Kikuchi
only trades up to two
cards, neither one of
them will get the last
two cards, if not
Akiyama won't trade
for more than three!

And
That's
all!



Deck positions where
Akiyama gets the Joker.

2 4 6 8 10

Deck positions where
neither can get the Joker.

16 17

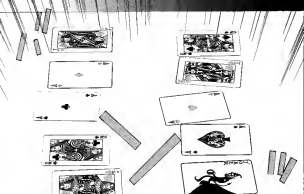
Deck positions where
Kikuchi gets the Joker.

1 3 5 7 9
11 12 13 14 15

With this,
Kikuchi has
incredible odds
of receiving
the Joker.







The Western Army is awarded twenty chips!!

AAAAAAAH!!
The Western Army's Center fielder Kikuchi wins once again!!

Yesss!!!

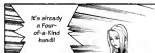


Chip Score

22 chips

Eastern Army
in the lead

This victory has narrowed the 100 chip difference to a mere 22 chips—!!



All right!
We got the Joker!



EEEEHI?

I fold.



Each player's
five chip ante
goes to the
dealer.

Awes—I! It's
only the first
bet of our
fifth hand
and Kikuchi
FOLDS!



We had
each a
great hand,
but we
couldn't
play it!

Awes

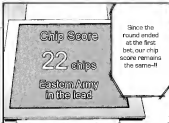


Chip Score

22 chips

Eastern Army
in the lead

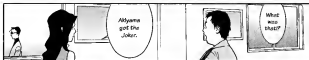
Since the
round ended
at the first
bet, our chip
score remains
the same—I!





the dealer
took our
precious
chips...

But
worse
than
that,



Atsuyama
got the
Joker.

What
was
that?



By folding on
the first bet,
it ends things
in a draw.

Kikuchi aims to
throw out the
hand as soon
as possible in
this kind of
situation.



I see!

In other words,
he can manipulate
the order to ensure
he'll get the Joker
right from the start.

Better yet,
folding lets him
be the last to
out in the
next hand.







YES!!

AAAAAH!!
The sixth hand
goes yet again
to the Western
Army—!!

...
reversed
the tables
—!!

Chip Score

18 chips

Western Army in the lead

With their
twenty chip
victory, the
Western
Army has at
long last .





Chapter 73

Intuition

...
reversed
the tables
—II

Chip Score

18 chips

Western Army in the lead

Having
secured victory
in the sixth hand,
the Western
Army has at
long last...

RIGHT
ON—II

Ah—!



You
certainly
seem to be
enjoying
yourself.



This
game is
mine!

Ku-
kuku!



Kuku
ku...

Of
course I'm
happy to
win.

W-
What
of it?

can see
the Joker,
can't you?

You...

What are
you talking
about?

Whe-

!!

And that's
the fact that
you know
the Joker's
location.

There's
only one
way to
explain all
of these
irregularities.

am I
wrong?

There's only one way to explain all of these irregularities.

Katoko -
Your
actions
greatly
affect
the
game.

If you want
game and
tricks, you
should've
been more
low-key.

There's no
physical way
to cheat
in this
game!

Tell me,
how is it
that I know
the Joker's
location?

That's
impossible.

And not only that, the new cards have slightly different designs on the back, making it impossible to play cards that have already been used before!

At the start of each hand, all seventeen cards are disposed of and a new pack is opened. That prevents marking the cards.



A—H!!
Unable to bear this any longer,
the Eastern Army calls small

TIME
OUT!!







Please,
hear me
out for a
moment!!

People
on the
Western
Team!!



What
would you
say...

What's
the
hook?

?



We're
trying to
put an end
to this
terrible
WAR GAME
as soon as
possible!

We're
not trying
to make
you go
brave.



High?
!!



to ending
this battle
right now?



We
want to
SAVE
you!!



Tell
me
more.



Be
quiet
for a
sec.



Do you
hear what
this girl is
saying?



He-
hehe!



But we fired
the last two
and tied the
game on
purpose!



Mr. Nishida,
when you fired
two shots, we
were already
guaranteed
victory.



Surely you
remember the
Vanguard's
betting.



Do you
see why?



That
300 million
difference
means this
is a bonus
stage for
us!

This Revival
Round lends us
400 million in
chips, but only
collects 600
at the end.



What
total...?

Think
back for a
moment.



If you
think of
the grand
total, that
wouldn't
mean a
huge
loss for
all of us
players.

In order to
ensure a win,
all we had to
do was guess.
But that we
passed, the
total would've
taken a huge
amount of
our chips!



*we can
save more
than one
person
with that
money!*

*if we
stop this
pointless
fighting.*



!!?

*to save
each and
every one
of you!*

*If you guys
are willing to
call a truce with
us, we promise
to use that
excess money...*



I heard.

*Did
you hear
that?*



I'm
not that
stupid.



No wonder
everyone
calls you
a dumbo.

—
Shut
up.

Otherwise, how
do you explain
why they find
the Vanguard
bottle?

No, that
girl is
serious!



There isn't
a damn
person out
there who'd
help others at
the cost of
himself!



To save us
would be of
absolutely
no profit to
that girl's
team.



Enough.

We have
to stop
fighting!

Please,
stand!



But



They're
not going
to hear
that kind
of offer.



Would both
players please
make their
way back to
the game
room?

Our five-
minute
break
is about
to end!



We
will now
resume the
game!

Hand
7.







fifteen
chips!

I bet
the
limit.



He's just
going to call,
obviously.



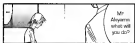
Mr.
Akagawa
your
response?



You can't
afford
to fold.

If you want
to save us,
you can't let
a single chip
go to the
dealer.







Call.



Aa—h!!
For the
very first
time in
this game,

our players
go head-to-
head for the
maximum
pot possible:
50 chips!!

!!



REVEAL!

Get
ready
and...



AAAH!!

AA—H! The
Western Army's
Kikuchi takes
the pot with a
Four-of-a-Kind
Queens—!!

Like I'm
stupid enough
to go in
on a shaky
hand...?

Kikuchi

Softly...
opening
Four-of-a-kind
hand...coming!



The dealer says
there's still
one hand
standing...oh!

Because
I know where
the Joker is
in the deck,
I can't be
defeated!

I'm
invincible!



W-
What...?
No!



He took
advantage
of that and
jacked the
pot up to
the betting
limit! ALL
BECAUSE
OF YOU!

Having
taken 50
chips from
the Eastern
Army, the
Western
Army is
now...

You
just had
to go and
promise we
wouldn't let
the dealer
take any of
our chips!



HAH!
LOOK
WHAT YOU
DID!



Will this
lead prove
too much
for the
Eastern
Army to
handle
in the
remaining
three
games!?

Chip Score

118 chips

Western Army in the lead

in the
lead for
a grand
total of
118
chips!!

Plus,
since
you need
it that
way -

But
that's the
treatment
I get!

Fgh -

I called
your 59 chip
challenge out
of kindness.



I'm gonna
mop the
floor with
you.

No more
Mr. Nice
Guy.

The gap
between our
two teams
has widened
to an incre-
dible 118
chips—!!!

Chip Score

118 chips

Western Army
in the lead

LARGE

Chapter 74
Request





Let's
begin our
eighth
hand.



Please
ready your
cards.



WAIT A
MINUTE!



ENO?

We could
see them
right as
you used
a Hindu
shuffle!

The cards
were
visible!





and stick
solely
to Riffle
shuffles.

Then stop
using Hindu
shuffles
altogether.



Effectively
canceling the power of
all other shuffles
combined.

Really, the only
way to defeat it
is to stick to my
favorite, the
American.



I think if
you'd be
more than
happy to
accept my
proposal?

And since
you, sir, were
so adamant
about your
innocence.



Let's
just stick
to Riffle
shuffles.

OK. I'll
accept.



Kakar-
ko...

So Mr.
Decker,
if you
please?

All right!
There you
have it!



What a
complete
IDIOT!!



and that's why if
we stop using it,
I can't locate the
card anymore?

He assumed
that I'm peering
at the cards to
locate the Joker
during each
Hindu shuffle.



It's far
easier to
follow a
card with
your eyes
during a
Riffle
shuffle
than it is
during a
Hindu
one!!



Getting rid of
Hindu shuffles
won't stop my
trick... in fact,
it makes it
easier for me,
because...



You
couldn't
be further
from the
facts!!





Two cards.



Nice cards.



Very well starting with Mr. Kikuchi, what would you like me to get?



Inventory

Shounen
Greatest
Anyone?



My hand is by no means the greatest, but...

that the
Joker is
the fourth
card in the
remaining
deck.



I know
...



I'll be the
one getting
the Joker in
the end,
anyway...



... Well,

So basically
neither of us
has the Joker
right now

So the only
way to lure
his chips into
the pot is
to make him
think my hand
is lousy



After
losing big,
Akayama's
now willing
to fold



Mr.
Klouch's the
first round
of betting
starts with
you



You're
telling
Mr. Akayama...



A pretty
first!

Mr.

the
chips?

Remember
the first
for all!



Five
chips.

At least
about the
halfway for
opponents
side.

Fifteen
chip!!

I'll raise
to the
betting
limit!



Good, good!
The higher
the bet,
the better
for me!

Because my
bet was so small,
he must have
concluded I don't
have the Joker
and was willing
to stay in this
round.

the
Joker's as
good as
mine!

After
all,

JOKER



JOKER

Ah!

starting
with Mr.
Akoyama!

Now to
exchange
cards.

I forgot
about
that!

Oh that's right...
because Mr.
Akoyama raised
and I called, he
gets to swap
cards first...

How
many to
discard...
guess
it...

Here

With the
Joker as
fourth in
the deck,
I'll still be
the one to
get it.

He'll only
trade one
to three
cards in
the first
place...

... Well,
not that it
makes any
difference.



Oh!!

This hand
is much
better than
I expected

maybe like
20 chips, or
even the
maximum
limit of 30

If his hand
is good, he's
going to raise
the bet

The big problem
is how good of
a hand Akemasa's
gotten with his
new cards...
but

Fifteen
chips.

Keep
it this
way
it is.

Okay the
second
round of
betting
starts with
you, Mr.
Akemasa

I'm
holding
a lot
more like
cards y...

Fifteen chips? He's not going to raise even by one?!

!?

Hey, maybe it's only a third-of-a-kind even with the Joker

What, is his hand complete trash?

What will you do?

Mr. Kikuchi?

Time to stick it out

That could be my chance!

Call.

REVEAL !!!

send

Our players go ahead to head over our eighth hand for a grand total of 35 chips! Get ready set



AH!!

AAAAA-
A——H!!
The West
attacks with
a Full House,
while the
East counters
with a Four-
of-a-Kind...!!



Our eighth
hand ends
in a thrilling
counterattack
by the East!!



That
means
Akiyama
is our
winner—!!

Having secured
a victory of
35 chips, the
Eastern Army has
narrowed the
score by 70...



He
did it
—!!



Ladies and
gentlemen,
this game
could go
anywhere!!

Chip Score

48 chips

Western Army
in the lead

leaving
our two
contenders
apart by
only 48
chips—!!



I've
gained the
right to cut
last on the
ninth hand!



In short,
by losing
this hand,

I'll win
next no
matter
what!



...In
other
words



Being able
to cut last
means I
can move
the dealer
wherever
I want...

If I can raise it to over
100 on this next hand,
my win is guaranteed
regardless of what
happens on the last one!

48 chips

Western Army
in the lead

As of this
moment,
I'm 48 chips
in the lead.

will
be the
last!!



In all
likelihood,
this next
game...



Gentlemen,
we will now
be starting
the ninth
hand!



Enjoy
this while
you can,
Akayama.

Kubey-
ku...



where
I utterly
destroy
you!!

because
this is
the hand
...



Chapter 75

Luck



Okay,
gentlemen,
we will now
begin our
ninth hand!



Antes
please



sofia says



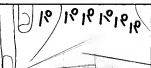
Kukuku...
You wish

Time for
a warm-
bath!

(Okay)

is the
stage
where I
utterly
crush
you!!

This
ninth
hand
...



At this moment, the Joker is fifteenth from the top.



The fifteenth card...

This has made following the Joker through the deck as easy as child's play.



Kuku... Thanks to Akirama's interference, the dealer has ceased with the Hindu shuffles and solely uses Riffle.

Hold up!



I will now deal the hands.

Just to be safe, mind shuffling them one more time?



Sorry, but Kikuchi saw the cards again during your shuffle.

Do I have your consent to shuttin' up, Mr. Kikuchi?



Again with those groundless accusations?



HAH?

Now. Go ahead and shuffle the deck once more.



While I grow tired of Akizane's valentines nit-picking, I take more offense to being labeled a cheater.



10/10



10/10



In your dreams!

Do you really think that shuffling an extra time is going to make any difference...?

Fufufu... That Joker was just as easy to follow as always.



A FOOL!



Kikuchi... You really are...



... Are you satisfied?



You, thank you. Go ahead.

the
thirteenth
card from
the top!



And
now, the
Joker
is...



Four
cards.



Five
cards.



or
"Yay".



Since
you won the
last hand, you
cut first, Mr.
Akiyama.



I will
now
cut the
deck.

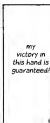
Akiyama

the Joker,
in the fourth
position,
will come
right to me!

Kirouche

As the deal
begins with
Akiyama for
winning the
last hand.

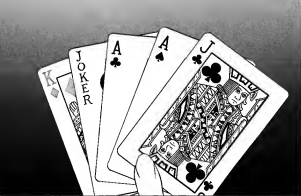
My last cut
has placed
the Joker
fourth from
the top.



my
victory in
this hand is
guaranteed!



And that
basically
means...



Checks - Player's bet on bold allowing the opponent to declare a bet first







I'd like two, please...



we begin with Mr. Kikuchi

Now to re-change cards.



This hand is completely out of his league!

Kikuchi! A Full House, Aces up!!



Mr. Mayama?





Mr. Kikuchi,
we start
with you



Our
second
round of
betting
comes
next.



That means
I can't raise
large bets
I have to keep
it in small
increments...

In order
to utterly
crush Akizama,
I need to lure
him to stay in
this hand.



Eight
chips
IT



eight
chips.



I have
to act as
if I don't
have the
Joker.

I bet...



Mr.
Akizama?



Hear...

eight



You,
eight
chips.

MAXIMUM
BET, 30
CHIPS!

RAISE.



Ku—ku—ku!
I can't
hold this
laughter in!

You leave
me with
no choice...
I'll call.

Let's
start...

What
will you
do, Mr.
Kikuchi?

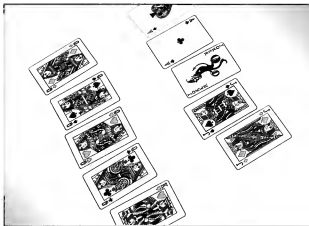
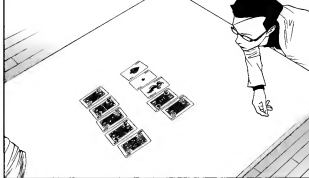
This ninth
hand has
culminated in an
exciting battle
over a pot of
88 chips!

All that's
left is the
faceoff.

Finally
and...

REVEAL!!

DIE,
AKIYAMA
——!!!





WHAAAAAT!?



A marvelous
victory for the
Eastern Army's
Aki—yama!!

The Western
Army's Full
House, Aces
up meets stiff
opposition with
the Eastern
Army's Four-
of-a-Kind
Queens!

YESS
——||



!!!

Which
means

The Western
Army's 43 chips
are awarded
to the Eastern
Army—!!

The
Eastern
Army has
finally
turned
back the
tide!

Chip Score

38 chips

Eastern Army in the lead

we have
a turn-
around!!!

AAAAH!



The winner
of this game
is anyone's
guess now!

But that
would
require
incredible
luck!



You mean
to tell me
out of those
five cards,
four just
happened
to be
Queens?

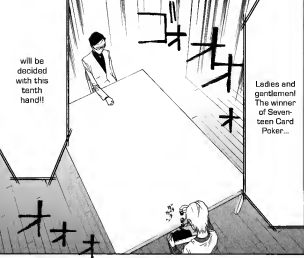
—So,
wait—



What
happened?
He discarded
his entire
hand!

will be
decided
with this
tenth
hand!!

Ladies and
gentlemen!
The winner
of Seven-
teen Card
Poker...



Besides, I have
my fail-proof trick,
and as if that wasn't
enough, I got to cut
last, too! I have
a 100% shot at
getting the Joker
this final hand!!

That
sort of
thing can't
happen
twice.

It's practically
certainly he
obtained a
Four-of-a-Kind
without the
Joker, and while
discarding his
under a hand!

Calm
down...
this was
just a
fluke.



*Akiyama is
guaranteed
to lose
this time!!*

*Any way
you cut
it,*



*The time
to play our
tenth and
final hand...
begins now!!*

The time
to play our
tenth and
final hand...
begins
now!!

Ladies
and
gentle-
man!

LARGA

Chapter 76
Ruse

Two cherubs, one slightly behind the other, both with wings and holding a bow and arrow.



And that's...



After all, my plan is foolproof.

If I take this final hand seriously, I'll win it, guaranteed!

Okay, so he managed to turn the tables again, but it's still a narrow margin!



whether or not he'll stay in until the end.



He could fold and secure a win for his team if he's satisfied with those earnings alone.

It may be a mere 38 chips, but he's still winning.



Just warning.

Eh?



to go sleep on me by folding that hand, right?

He couldn't possibly be planning...



I'm
staying
in until
the end.



Just now, you were
worrying about whether
or not I'd fold this
final hand just to hog
that last win to
myself, right?



What I'm
saying is that
rather than scoring
one point win, it is
more important to
secure plenty of
ships to cover us
whether or not we
win the Gonzalez
battle.

Come it would
be great if we
won, but if we
don't, that
has our team's
overall score.
And that means
the winner will
be decided by
ship count.



If I try to
pull out of
this game
now, that will
leave the
entire round's
outcome
to the next
battle.

The
Vanguard
battle ended
in a tie.



Surely
you can see
when...

I don't
game out
cheap
tricks.

Relax.



I can
never have
enough
money.

Besides,
I'm super
greedy.



If I get
the right
hand, I'll
max out
the pot!

Same
right now,
lady luck's
on my
side.



Thank
God this
guy is an
idiot!!

"Luck's
on my
side"...??
Pfffft--!!



you'll be
devoured
alive by
me!

That's right... If
you want to win
this round, you've
got to go for the
big money.

Al-
though
in the
end...



1/9/19

1/9/19

1/9/19

my
victory
is 100%
assured!

I'm lost
to cut...
Assuming
that Abi-
yama truly
stays in
this hand,
then...

Right
now, the
Joker is
the ninth
card in
the deck!

The
ninth
card...



Wait a
minute!

AGAIN?

WHA
AAAA
AAT?

So just
to be sure,
let's shuffle
the deck
three more
times.

I want to
be able to
clear all
possible
grudges or
suspicions
between
us.

For better
or worse,
this is
our final
match.

Yeah,
just three
more
times.



That's all
I'll take to
clear your
doubts
about me!



... Uh,
ahem...



Very
well.



Whichever
method
you
prefer...

Fine. Go
ahead, Mr.
Duelist.



*This hand
is so good,
I almost
can't contain
myself!!*

*A Full House!!
I've already got
a Full House
Aces right
off the bat!!*



Hehe...

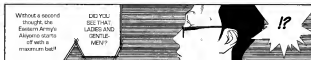
Time for
our first
bet, Mr.
Akizawa,
please

whether or
not Akizawa
will really play
this hand like
he said he
would

It's the
perfect
winning
hand...
Now the
problem
is...



Fifteen chips.



Without a second thought, the Eastern Army's Aoyama starts off with a maximum bet!

DID YOU SEE THAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN?

I?



given the right hand, I'll make out the pot.

I already told you!

why?

ah.



And Oh, um... I'm feeling, so I have no choice but to call.

Mr. Kaku chi?



He's really going to stick it out to the end!!

I'm saved by his gambling spirit!

Whew!!



Let's see...

Mr. Aoyama how many will you discard?



Kakaku! Too bad for you, mine is a Full House! And over King! There's no Full House you can possibly make that can beat that!

But for him to want to play, it must be a fairly decent hand! Maybe a Three-of-a-Kind? Or a Full House?

Very good. Now to exchange cards.



My
whole
hand.



— N-
Nothing —

What's wrong?



HAAAAAH!?



Wait, that's it.
He must have been
thinking that I don't
have the Joker, so
by exchanging all five,
he'd have good odds
of getting it and
making a better hand.

What?!
He went
all in on a
worthless
hand?



But too bad
for him, the
Joker essential
to his plans
isn't coming...

It's going to be very hard to decide what comes next.

But that five-card trade has truly made things difficult.



If I exchange two cards, that'll mean the entire seven-card deck is spent.

But this situation actually posed a different problem.

After all, I can't say "I don't want to discard," because that would give away my Full House.

Had I discarded first, theoretically, I would've been safe getting rid of my kings even though that worsens my hand.



It's a sure bet he'd fold then!

So, Akapama can think backwards to figure out that I have the Joker right now.



So terrible, that maybe mine might actually stand a chance...?

That must mean your hand is terrible right now.

You exchanged your whole hand, huh?

An act that makes him think the Joker is still among the deck's two remaining cards.

My best option is not to discard at all, and put on an act.









Very well. A full contest is unknown-edged



I have to call, I don't have a choice...

What will you do in response Mr. Kurochi?



YOU'RE A MORON, AKIYAMA!

HAAAA-HAHHA!



Once the full contest is called, there's nothing you can do anymore! I can tell you everything!

Kutakutakute to break it to you, but YOU LOSE!

HUP



But not by some cheap trick like peeping at the desk. No, something much more sophisticated



I've known the Joker's location the entire time!

It's been just as you thought!

And using
my top-notch
dynamic visual
acuity, I've
been following
the card with
my eyes during
every shuffle!

I may not
look it, but
I'm a former
Bantam-
weight
boxer!



I was able to
discover that
the very first
card in every
deck is none
other than the
Joker (heh!!)



And sure
enough...

Noting that it
might apply to the
cards used in this
game, too...

Well, I
survived in on
that fact.

Perhaps you
know that when
you buy a deck of
trump cards, they
come arranged
in some sort of
uniform order
right out of
the package.



All you
had to do
was secure
your win
from the
wild hand,
but no...

You just
couldn't
control
your greed,
could you,
Akizuki? This
last hand was
uncon-
cerning.

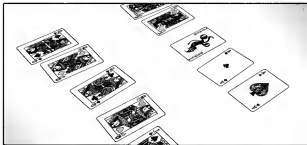
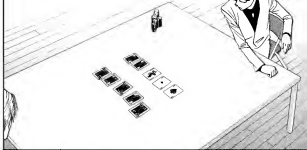
No
way...

afforded
me complete
control
over where
the Joker
ended up!

That
knowledge,
coupled with
these
eyes.









Yes, our
final hand
ends in
Akiyama's
thrilling
vi—ctory!!

THE
EASTERN
ARMY
WINS!

HE DID
IT!!!



WHAT
THE
HELL
IS?

Four-
of-a-
Kind?

AM-
OTHER

...I had a
Full House
Ace...
But...
But...



You've really
got some
amazing
luck, Mr.
Akiyama!!

Luck?

I was really
worried there
for a moment,
but now I'd
never have got
pocketed a Four-
of-a-Kind for
the second
time in a row!

Yaaaay
!!

You're
amazing, Mr.
Akiyama!
Amazing!!



*It was all
strategy.*

*It
wasn't
luck.*



*Fufu,
that's
right.*

*... What do
you mean? You
actually got a
Four-of-a-Kind
intentionally?*

EHII?



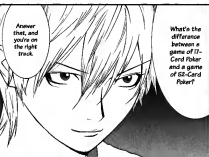
*exactly
how I
pulled
it off.*

*And I'd
be more
than happy
to share...*

TO BE CONTINUED



Chapter 16
General

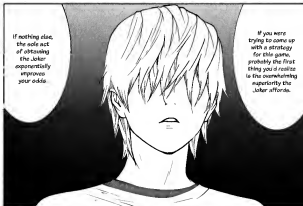




Let me
be more
specific.

Sorry,
sorry.

— Uh,
Mr. Akagami,
I don't under-
stand where
you're going
with this...



If nothing else,
the sole act
of obtaining
the Joker
exponentially
improves
your odds.

If you were
trying to come up
with a strategy
for this game,
probably the first
thing you'd realize
is the overwhelming
superiority the
Joker affords.



is how
quickly he
connects in
my to locate
the Joker
from that.

But the most
impressive part
about him...

and
probably
Kiluchi,
too, right
now.

Um... right, I
realized that
too during the
simulation
game...



I first came
to that
realization
during the
fourth hand
of the actual
game.

"Kiluchi
obviously knows
where the
Joker is, and
is playing
around it."



he
could
control

But it
was clear
beyond
any doubt

It hit me
suddenly
and I could
barely
hold back



With that idea,
I tried focusing
closely on the
dealer, but it
was impossible

to be
watching
the cards
during the
shuffle

"Which,
as if that's
the case,
then how?



What if
I could
control the
dealer's
every move?

Even then,
I
wasn't
sure
if I
could
control
every card



"Then I must
explore other
methods,"
I thought

And that's
when I
noticed it



Every fresh deck
has the Joker as its
first card, and using
his amazing vision he
followed it through
the shuffle...

Mr. Kikuchi
said the
same thing.
Didn't he?



Well, even if I had figured it out before him, I don't have any Dynamic Visual Acuity like him, meaning there was no way for me to utilize his trick.

My suspicions were confirmed by the 40th hand, but Kikuchi had already figured it out, and I was too late.



That's what I had an idea.



I had to come up with a strategy even more powerful than his.

So in order to win,



I just needed to figure out where the rest of the cards were located.

If Kikuchi can figure out where the Joker was placed in the deck,



If you can figure out where the Joker was in the deck because the cards were in uniform order, then you also figure out where the rest of them are, too.

No, it's not.

That's incorrect.



The
order
went like
this:

And in fact,
I was able to
ascertain the
deck's order
by the eighth
hand.



Even though I know
the order the cards
were in, I couldn't
guess them as they
were shuffled.



As I mentioned
earlier, I don't
have any ability
like Kikashi's.

Let's leave
that for later
and instead
consider a big-
ger problem.



HOW
IF?

There IS a
way to know
the cards' order
without
quick eyes.



Fa-
fafa

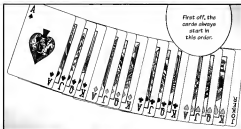


Then
what's
the
point?!

but
ALL of
them!



And not
just one
or two...







How in the world are you doing it?!



UNBELIEV-
ABLE!!







The same exact order the deck started in!



The deck's order is retained because of the precise way the cards are interleaved each time.



This is what you get...



And that's not all! Let's say you do this, or even six Perfect Shuffles...



One Perfect Shuffle	Two Perfect Shuffles	Three Perfect Shuffles	Four Perfect Shuffles
10♠	4♠	9♠	10♠
9♠	10♠	10♠	9♠
8♠	9♠	8♠	8♠
7♠	8♠	7♠	7♠
6♠	7♠	6♠	6♠
5♠	6♠	5♠	5♠
4♠	5♠	4♠	4♠
3♠	4♠	3♠	3♠
2♠	3♠	2♠	2♠
1♠	2♠	1♠	1♠
10♥	10♥	10♥	10♥
9♥	9♥	9♥	9♥
8♥	8♥	8♥	8♥
7♥	7♥	7♥	7♥
6♥	6♥	6♥	6♥
5♥	5♥	5♥	5♥
4♥	4♥	4♥	4♥
3♥	3♥	3♥	3♥
2♥	2♥	2♥	2♥
1♥	1♥	1♥	1♥

This is how the card order changes with each Perfect Shuffle. By the eighth shuffle, you go back to where you started.

Five Perfect Shuffles	Six Perfect Shuffles	Seven Perfect Shuffles	Eight Perfect Shuffles
10♠	10♠	10♠	10♠
9♠	9♠	9♠	9♠
8♠	8♠	8♠	8♠
7♠	7♠	7♠	7♠
6♠	6♠	6♠	6♠
5♠	5♠	5♠	5♠
4♠	4♠	4♠	4♠
3♠	3♠	3♠	3♠
2♠	2♠	2♠	2♠
1♠	1♠	1♠	1♠
10♥	10♥	10♥	10♥
9♥	9♥	9♥	9♥
8♥	8♥	8♥	8♥
7♥	7♥	7♥	7♥
6♥	6♥	6♥	6♥
5♥	5♥	5♥	5♥
4♥	4♥	4♥	4♥
3♥	3♥	3♥	3♥
2♥	2♥	2♥	2♥
1♥	1♥	1♥	1♥

(In the bottom deck on card)





Wait,
so it was
never about
Mr. Kikuchi
cheating?!

Oh, I see!
That's why you
interrupted the
dealer before
he started
shuffling!



And that
allowed
you to completely
predict the
order of the
deck from
then on!

So Mr. Akizawa
concluded under
the pretense that
the Hindu Shuffle
permitted cheating,
while you were really
able to get the
dealer to use only
Perfect Shuffles!



That
combination
would have
messied up
the order of
the deck!

Up until then,
the dealer had
been using a Hindu
Shuffle, followed
by a Kettle.



The fact that
the dealer was
using Perfect
Shuffles, coupled
with the knowledge
of ten cards in
the shuffled deck,
allows you to work
backwards and
figure out the
deck's original
order.

Remember
how I exchanged
five cards? The
reason for that
was because it
allowed me to
see a total of
ten out of the
seventeen cards
in the deck
that turn.



My primary
goal in this eighth
hand was simply
to confirm the
order of the deck
after I made the
dealer stop his
Hindu Shuffle.



And that's
how, by the end
of the eighth
hand, I know the
exact order of
each deck.



and then
strike with
the perfect
timing!

All I
needed was
to utilize
the dealer's
Perfect
Shuffle...

That
cheap
move
made the
game as
good as
mine.



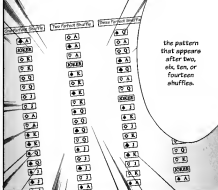
And
that
one
was...

Out of all the different
patterns possible with
a Perfect Shuffle, there
was one in particular
that would lead me
to victory 100%
of the time.

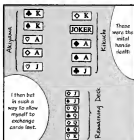
Perfect...
timing!



In order to produce these patterns, I had to further exhaust the dealer.



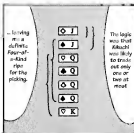
the pattern that appears after two, six, ten, or fourteen shuffles.



These were the initial hands dealt.

I then had in such a way to allow myself to exchange cards fast.

Reversing Deck.



The logic was that Akitsuuchi was likely to trade out only one or two at most.



And this was the order after each shuffle.

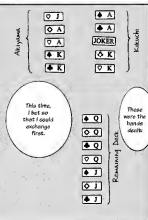
Most likely, it ended up this way because Kitsuuchi was trying to bring the Joker into his hand.



This was the pattern the deck ended in after all the shuffling on the ninth hand.



Asahi! Amazing !!





I'm not
that
great...

First you
figured out how
this game differs
from regular poker...
then from there
you discovered
the shuffling
trick and devised
the perfect
strategy...!

You're
incredible...
simply
incredible,
Mr. Abiyamal



But,
yeah...

I hate to
admit it, but
I really started
peeking
halfway
through.



Chip Score
138 chips
Eastern Army
in the lead

I somehow
managed to
strengthen
our lead...

The
real
...



Is up to you.
All you need
to do is
protest it.



...
Okay.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
it is now the
time for our
Generals' Battle!





"STATIONARY
ROULETTE!!"

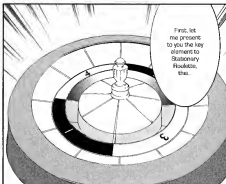
Our
final
game
will
be...

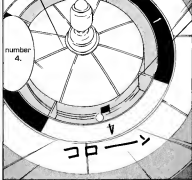


LARG-44

Chapter 78
Coercion

Two small, winged cherubs are positioned to the right of the chapter title. They are holding a heart and looking towards the left.







Before the ball falls into one of the pockets, each player makes his or her bet.

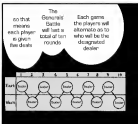


Thus, the player who bet chips on that number wins.

and is awarded additional chips in proportion to his or her bet.







I HAVE
TO BET
NOW?

HUH?

Very
good. Now,
the player
who is the
"dealer"
bets first.

Forgot
betting...
I already know
where it's
going to
land!

But isn't
the point of this
game to guess
where the ball is
going to land?

Yes.

Your
opponent will
immediately
surmise
the winning
number...
see?

Say for
instance,
that the
winning
number
is 1. You
place ten
chips on 1

In essence
your task is now
to bet in such
a way that the
winning number
won't be associ-
ated by your
opponent.

I am
aware of
that

The participant
would have absolutely
no idea which number
is the winning one.

Or in the
simplest case,
you might bet
on every single
number.

BETTING TABLE

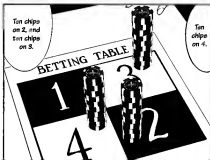
3	4
2	1

Your opponent is
now left to guess
which number
is correct.

But now
say you bet
ten chips
on both 1
and 2

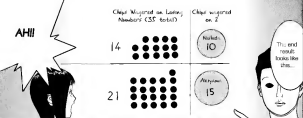
BETTING TABLE

1	3
4	2





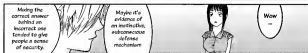






Almost nobody had their first option as the correct one.

The vast majority of students tended to make their second or third choice the right answer.



Making the correct answer behind an incorrect one tended to give people a sense of security.

Maybe it's evidence of an instinctive, subconscious defense mechanism.

Wow...



So that's why I bet on Numbers 2 and 3, my best guess from a psychological viewpoint, dryness!

He used the incorrect Number 4 first to shield the right answer!

Tim on 2, and Sam on 3.

Tim on 4.

And think back to how he announced his bet.



Please place the ball in the wheel for us.

Next, it's Mr. Akayama's turn to be the "dealer."

Amazing, Mr. Akayama...



Very good
Now if you
would place
your bet,
please?



A hundred
fifty on
2 and 3



I'll wager
150 on
the same
numbers.

OK

Mr.
Nishida,
you're up
next.



H-
HUNDRED
FIFTY??

!!



HUH?

You cannot.



145 on 2, and 140 on 8...

Five =



EH? NO WAY!

Therefore it is impossible for you to wager 3000 chips.

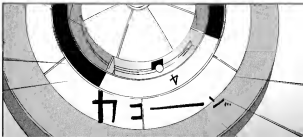
The Western Army has no more than 2100 chips at this very moment.



The winning number is 14.



All bets have now been placed.



Neither
of us bet
on 4!!

But 4
is...

4!?

All chips
in play are
collected by
me, the real
dealer

Chi Chi

Chi

Since neither of
our two players
cast any bet on
the winning
number,

Ka-
kaku

You're the
"dealer"! You
should've at least
placed a bet on
the winning
number!!

Are you
stupid
??

and the
Eastern Army
would be
the one to
proceed to
the fourth
round

Had the
game been
an actual
one, the
Western
Army would
have been
eliminated.

Thus, at such
an event
the game
is not
right there.

But if one
team runs
out of funds,
the game
cannot be
continued

I did
mention
earlier that
a total of
ten rounds
will be
played.

Well,

What
happens
in a case
like this?

Mr. Dealer
The Western
Army's all
out of cash,
right?



See?
There is
more than
one way
to bet.



Sure, you
lose your
money, but
it's practi-
cally guar-
anteed to
win the
money
back.

They can
place a bet
equal to the
opponent's
remaining
funds on an
incorrect
number.

If one
side takes
a really big
lead and
goes to
sleep,

!!



... Kinde-
like the
way you
guys just
did.



Right
now it is his
team that
carries the
overwhelm-
ing lead



You've just
placed the
Western
Army under
intense
pressure!

Remarkable,
Miyano.

will cause the Western Army to shrink back, all the more hesitant to play an aggressive strategy.

As if saying, "We can crush your team when we feel like it," his virtual threat...

Let's hope that keeps them in check for a while.

They're probably shaking in their boots right now.

Mr. Akigawa's team was also influenced by his anxiety.

In reality...

isn't suited for Kanzaki Nao at all.

because more than anything else, this "Stationary Roulette" game

our team would be doomed for sure.

If we couldn't win this game at once, we'd...

She was too anxious to let them play the game. She didn't want to let them play.





In such an event, the
Revel Round's winner
will be the team with
a greater amount
of chips.

If the Western Army
wins our Generals'
Battle, the score will
become tied at one
win, one loss.

LARGA

Chapter 79
Falter

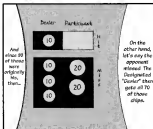
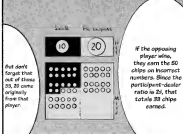


your team will
have to surpass
the Eastern Army's
chip reserves
as well



In other
words, for the
Western Army
to come out
victorious.







...And that's
to threaten
them.

Threaten
them?

Th-

!?

Normally
you'd expect
the "dealer" to
bet on all 4
numbers.

Eastern Army

516

Western Army

298

As of this
moment, the
chip score is
516 to 298.

...For
example,

"Three hundred
on Number 1!"
or something
like that...

But say you
bet *everything*
on *one* number.



This is vital.

Naturally, you place the ball in slot 1.



Yes.

A huge ball like that, all of a sudden?

!!



Like, you could stop...

that's when you drop the threat.



And...

298

Since the enemy team only has 298 for bets, they will be forced to wage everything.



"Let's settle this in one shot!"



Oh, I get it! That's the strategy you used in the simulation game!



Maybe that idea is to get us both to bet on a wrong number, giving them the victory right here!



What if the ball isn't in number one?

When you do that, your opponent's mind will start to race.



That memory is sure to still be fresh on their minds.

Sure that round didn't count, but I made them taste a crushing defeat.



But I
foresee
this next
possibility.

Since both of
you bet on
the right
number, both
of you get
your chips
back.

BETTING TABLE		
300	1	3
	298	

Even if the
opponent isn't
thrown off balance
and decides to bet
298 on Number 3, we
win, that's perfectly
fine too.



Right.
Out of those
eighteen, ten
would come
our way.

And if
they do that,
we get
the chips!

BETTING TABLE		
300	1	3
280		

The opponent may
decide to bet something
like 280 chips on Number
3, betting a little amount,
like eighteen chips, on
either 2 or 3 for
insurance.



The best
part about
this method
is that our
300 chips are
guaranteed
to come
right back.



I
guess
you're
right...

But
for you,
that's
impos-
sible.

BETTING TABLE		
300	1	3
198		100

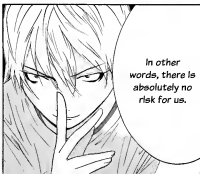
Opponent may
put you in a bit
of a bind, more than
with betting options
like 298 or 280,
on top of the other
3 numbers.



I think
that's the
most realistic
what we have
at winning.

With the
"dealer" being
specifically in
rebel, you can
win if he lead
early on and
maintain it
thereafter using
this no-risk
strategy

Okay!
Leave it
to me!



In other
words, there is
absolutely no
risk for us.



At last.

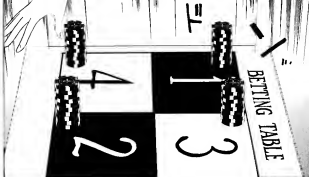


the Battle begins.

Would both
Generals
please make
their way to
the Game
Room?

Ladies and
gentlemen, we
will now begin the
Generals' Battle!









Can I really trust you?



Ms. Kozuka...

!!



lying, deceiving people... I'm not cut out for this.

It's her choice.



After watching Kikuchi, who I was so sure would win, lose so badly... I'm at a loss.

... I don't know what to do.



— Um...

I'm terrible at this too.

I understand how you feel.



It's a promise!

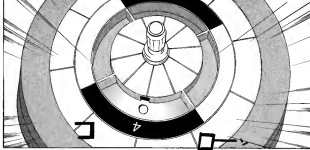
Yee!



Will you really save my team?

Is it really true that I can believe in you?





I failed to convince
Ms. Kozaka
after all.

But I
won't
try to
trick you!

I'll get
everything
back if I win on
this next turn.

The
important
thing is to
win on the
"dealer".

It's
okay.

Instead, I
ended up
losing 40
chips.



Right.



Now the second
round. Ms. Kozaka
has the Eastern
Army dealing.

...Which means I
should bet large
on those turns.

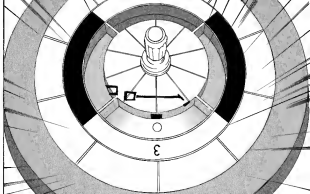
The
"dealer"
has the
advan-
tage.

Okay.

Please
place your
bet, if you
would.







So that means
out of our total
of 75 remaining
chips, 15 goes
to the East and 60
to the West!



However, the
Custom Army
won 20
chips, whereas
the Western
Army 100



Number
3 is our
winning
number! Both
players
win!



WE JUST
SCORED
60 CHIPS!!

LUCK
IS ON
OUR
SIDE!

SHE
DID
IT!!

It's only the second game and we have already taken back 100 chips!

...So that means,

Wait a moment, we just won 40 chips on the first game.

WE ARE NEARLY TIED!!

...Eighteen apart

West

298 chips

+100 chips
↓

398 chips

East

516 chips

↓ -100 chips

416 chips

What about our 200 chip difference?

What about the score?

WE CAN WIN THIS GAME!!

WE CAN WIN!!

The truth of the matter...

Ms. Koshiba's gamble on number 3 made it seem as if luck was on her side, but this was not the case.

had sunk
his fangs
into her.

was
that Mr.
Fukunaga



Perfect,
perfect.

416 to
398, huh..

Fufufu~



has now been
cut to just
eighteen!

CHIP SCORE

WESTERN
ARMY

416

EASTERN
ARMY

398

At the
end of just
the second
round of the
Generals'
Battle,
the chip
difference

LAR-GAME



Chapter 80
Secret Maneuver



This
turnaround
is simply
unbelievable!



Unbelievable!







I've got something interesting you may want to hear...



!?



That's what I wanted to talk about...



I've got my hands full trying to find a way to win this battle at all cost.



Sorry, I don't have any time to chat with you.



what do you say we team up?

is short.



I don't see eye-to-eye with Algernon and Kazuki's methods. Basically, I'm fed up with those two.

I don't have much of a presence on the Eastern side.



?

*I'd much rather
join you so I can
kiss those two
goodbye.*

*So,
you
see...*



*My share
of the prize
will be
enough
at least.*

*Kenshiro has
our general. If
she wins, our
chances of
winning big
go with her.*



*You're
missing
the point.*

*Aggressively with
control would
allow us to
the room close
to winning. What
do you have to
gain by joining
the losing side?*



*Your
team is
winning
right now.
By a lot.*

*You're
not making
my move.*



*and claim
a perfect
victory!*

*we'll take
all the
chips*



*It wouldn't be
better for me to
help you guys win,
would it? I should
go to a lot more?*

*Think about
it... if you
join me.*

If you do as I say, your team is 100% guaranteed to win.

This is no bluff.

Seriously.

!!

If you promise me 300 million from your winnings, I'll give you my winning secret.

If you were able to claim all that, even after you return 300 million to the dealer, you'd still have 500 million left.

CHIP SCORE

Eastern Army

Western Army

516

298

Right now, our teams hold a total of some 800 million combined.

What a terrible rip-off!

Hehe!

You want 300 out of 500 million?

Even if you're lucky enough to win, you'll probably only win by a narrow margin. That means you enter the Fourth Round with practically the same amount of debt you had before.

to ~~lose~~...
I bet.

Don't forget this is a *Revised* Round. There are no second chances if you lose this. All that remains...

Oddly, you'll lose the entire round going into the "Cometale" battle like this.

At present, your team is severely losing...

Doesn't make a difference to me.

All right, fine. Do whatever you like.

...Well...
You're wrong regardless of whether you win or lose.

SCORE

Western Army

298

!!



Let me...
hear your
offer.



Okay!!



But if you
look at it
seriously, you'll
see that
that's not
true.



Just a moment
ago you claimed
my 500 million price
tag was a rip-off,
considering the
500 you'd make.



Who said
you need
to decide
it is
divided?

1?



But even if I get 500
million, dividing that
among my father's three
children leaves me stuck
with 150 million — barely
worth the trouble.



The same goes
for your side — 500
million minus my 500
million leaves you with
200 million, meaning
we split it right
down the middle.



Even if I earn 500
million, I still need
to return 500 million
to the main donor
or I only walk away
with 200 million.



You should
keep it all to
yourself!

These two only
managed to drive
you into this mess
in the first place!

I mean,
right?

!!

You're
right.

Yes,
Kash.

Be thankful
you're even
getting the
opportunity
to enjoy it in
the fourth
round.

But you
and me,
we're going
to fix that.

Once we
show this to the
LOI official at the
end of the round,
he'll split the
money with us
completely.

This
will
do...

More
important—
Kashly.

Letter of Responsibility

I, Kazuka Tadako, solemnly
promise to divide my earnings
in half with Fukunaga provided
the Western Army wins the
LIAR GAME's Renewal Round.

Kazuka Tadako

The truth
is, I've gone
head-to-head
with Kazuko!
Not many times
before this, and
won. So that's
why I know...

what is your
100% winning
strategy?

she always
bats her eye-
lids two to
three times.

That when
she lies,



I mean this
upcoming game is
all about guessing
where your opponent
placed the ball... so
logically eye-blinking...



It may
seem small
but it helps
predicting
moving in
this game.

Think
that's
all.



That's
all.

That...
is the
strategy?



It's a game of whether
you can or cannot see
through the opponent's lies

That this little
trickiest fact will make
all the difference in
the world.

By its
and you'll
notice



//



Was Fukunaga really telling the truth?

Then, during the second round of the actual game...



I might as well give it a shot.

Well, just thinking about it won't get me anywhere.



He-he...

Number 17

What number did you pick, I wonder.

That's quite a large bet you made.



No.

Number 23



Number 3.

Okay.

N-Not
that one.

the
bullet in
Pookit's?
!!

If what
Fukunaga
said was
true, then...

She just
blinked!?

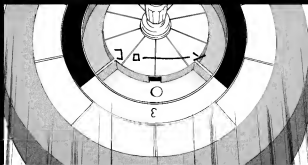
!!

!?

74...

the
moment
of truth!!

And
now...



A—h!! Number 3
is our winning
number! Both
players win!



that means a
grand total of
60 chips goes
to them!!



However,
since the
Western Army
bet all chips
on Number 3.

is mine for
the taking!!



Then,
this final
battle...

It's
just
easy to tell
when
this girl
is lying?



Impossible!!
Fukunaga
wasn't
kidding!

I nearly managed
to lose the entire
lead our team had
gained in the
second round.

CHIP SCORE	
EASTERN ARMY	WESTERN ARMY
416	398

Just
like
that.

Would both
armies' Generals
please make their
way back to the
game room?

Our time out
will be ending
momentarily.



Just focus
on not making
any stupid
mistakes.

For
now,

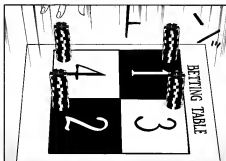
Keep
your
cool.



Dealer Kazuo,
your bet, please.

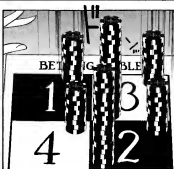


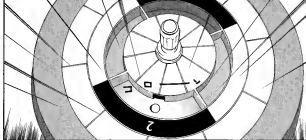
Round
three.



Another 100%,
or 90 chip
challenge...

!!





EASTERN ARMY	WESTERN ARMY
430	384

Out of the total 50 chips bet on incorrect numbers, 24 go to the East and 10 to the West!

Both players win

Yeah!! I got it!!

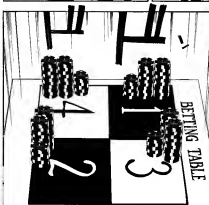
at which it's your turn to be "designated dealer."

The real match

But this bet is hardly anything to me.

Che--

You got lucky this time



Mr. Kameko your bet if you would?

Round 4

Yet ANOTHER
25x4, or 100
chip wager!!



A hundred
chips on
Number 2!!

4

You're betting
everything on
one number
again?

!!

call it a
HUNCH!

Let's
just!

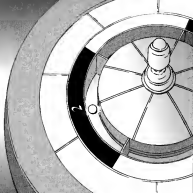
Yuhuh
You want
to know?

—
W-
Why?

4

the
moment
of truth!!

And
now...



However, in contrast to the 25 chips wagered by the Eastern Army, 100 were bet by the West. That means out of the 75 incorrectly wagered chips, 15 go to the East and 60 go to the West —!!

In doing so...



The winning number is 2!! Both players win—!!

YESSS!!!

Right on the heels of this Revival Round's grand finale, The Western Army takes back the lead—!!

CHIP SCORE

Eastern Army

Western Army

370

444

WE
HAVE A
TURN-
AROUND
!!

WE'RE
GONNA
WIIIIIIIN —!!

HELL
YEAH!!

just as
planned!!

Every-
thing's

perfect...
too perfect!

Go on!!

hehehe



Out of the 75
incorrectly weighed
chips, 15 go to the
East and 60 to the
West—! Thus

LARGE

Chapter 81
Distrust



THE WESTERN
ARMY IS BACK
IN THE LEAD!!

CHIP SCORE

Eastern Army

Western Army

370

444

WE HAVE
A TURN-
AROUND!!

CHIP SCORE

Western Army

Western A

370

444

...losing
the
game...

...if what
I said

...We
are...

the best
thing I
could have
asked for!

Your
method
truly was

Thank you
Playmaker.

Pa.
Pa.
Pa.

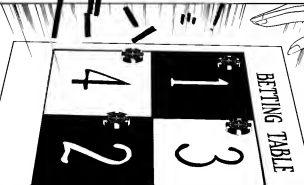


Designated
Dealer Kousuke
you're next.

We will
begin
Round 5!

Now
then...







THAT IS ALL
YOU ARE
BETTING?

!!
1 chip
x 4!



!?



General
Kanzaki of the
Eastern Army,
your bet
please



How did
you do it?

you gambled
everything on a
single number, and
got it right twice in
a row. That can't
be a coincidence.



This game gives
the designated
dealer a big
advantage.

As I'm sure
you're well
aware of,
Mr. Kurosaki,

Stop
telling
nonsense...

or
what?



That's why it's in
your best interests
to make a very large
bet on the dealer...
in theory.

The amount you
can win as the dealer
is nearly three times
what you'd win as
the participant.



Dealer



Participant

Amount won by
the dealer if the
participant bets
incorrectly.

+ 40

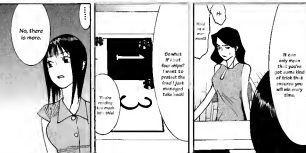
Amount won by
the participant
if he or she bets
correctly.

+ 14



Something
is not right.

In spite of that
fact, you just bet
a single chip on
each number
this round.



No, there
is more.

You're
making
too much
noise.

Don't
forget
if I bet
four chips
I want to
protect the
line! I just
managed
to do it!

Hold
up a
gun
now!

It can
only mean
that you've
got some
kind
of trick that
ensures you
will win every
time.

is very
dangerous,
statistically
speaking.

Your act
of wagering
everything on
one number

If the participant
wins in this case, he
or she gets a return
of 100. But when the
side of guessing
correctly and only
20 %, the expected
value is a mere 20.



On the
other hand,
think about
betting
everything
on one
number.

Expected value of the participant's bet:



You would be
looking at a
return of 400.
But since you have
a 50 % chance of
guessing the
right number,
your expected
value is 200.



Buy the dealer bets
on all four numbers,
while the participant
bets on his or her
favored two.

Expected value of the participant's bet:



EXPECTED VALUE: THE AVERAGE AMOUNT ONE EXPECTS TO WIN PER BET

Am I
wrong?

And that's
that you can
tell where the
ball is!

... And
despite
that, you
did it
again —
take in a
real! There
can only
be one
reason...

Looking purely at the
statistics, betting
on one number alone
is asking for trouble. I
mean, surely your
team worried you
about this kind of
risk during the
time out we just
had, right?





You are pulling
off some kind
of a trick then,
aren't you,
Mr. Koseki?

It's when
you ask me,
"Is it 1?",
"Is it 2?",
right?



I'm not!

... I keep
telling
you



I guess
you are
telling the
truth
then.

Oh...

I can't
read
people's
minds.

But I
have no
idea.

Okay, I'll admit
I thought that
those questions
might get some
kind of response
from you.



Go
to
the

No, no... It
must be that
I've just thinking
negatively after
looking back
to back...

Those two
consecutive
wins must have
really been just
a streak of
good luck...

She
almost
had me!

Phew...!!
That was
close!

I will bet
two chips
on numbers
1 and 2.

BETTING TABLE

Mr. Kamada,
your bet?

Sorry.

Ah

The
moment
of truth!!

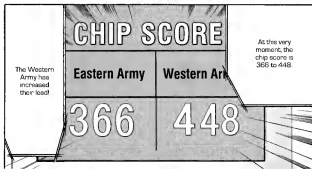
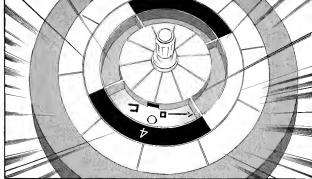
Both players
have placed
their bets
so...

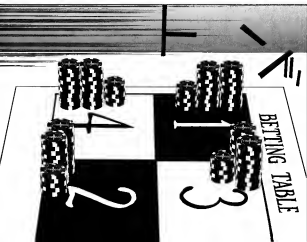
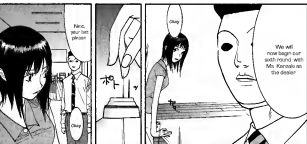
BETTING TABLE

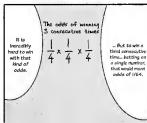
1 [○] ₂	3 ^①
4 ^①	2 [○] ₂

○ White BET

□ Black BET







A 1/64 miracle...
I really can't imagine
that happening here.



63/64,
wouldn't
they?



In fact, if we were to
turn this situation
around, the odds of
the dealer winning
just once when the
participant bets
everything on a
single number
would be...

I am 66
times more
likely to win
than you...



63/64 for
the dealer, but
1/64 for the
participant

to
take some
chances...



This
is the
perfect
time

90 chips
on all four
squares!

SETTING TABLE

1

3

4

2





What a
complete
and utter
idiot!!



It's
fun
to

Although...
with my winning
track, that game
is as good as
over, anyway!



It doesn't
matter if I won two
games straight, it
doesn't change the
fact that my odds
of winning this
game are 1/100

She
knows
nothing
about it, does
she?



This will
decide the
match!

This
is it!!



That's
reptonic mind
to the rescue!!



While
helping
you choose
this time,
I wonder:

.....



You really
want to go
all out,
right?

Oh,
huh...

If the Western
Army's Mr.
Kensler wants
please place
her bet.



360
chips on
number 2!!

I have
made up
my mind!







Assand now, for the 6th round of "Stationary Roulette", the Eastern Army's Ms. Kanzaki has established quite the challenge!

80 chips on all four squares... she's upped the bet to a staggering 360-chip bettie!

LARGAME



Chapter 82
Surrender







*I couldn't
ask for a
better sucker!*



*It's all your fault
sucker! I've
offered them
chips to eat
after all!*

*And look at
her and that
pitiful long
face!*



*I was a complete
new-comer to business
administration, and yet
so many people were
there to help me
along the way.*

*It wasn't long after
graduating high school
that my father passed
away and I ended up
becoming a business*



*kind of
business.
She told me*

*that
she did.*



*But that
couldn't have
been further
from the
truth.*

*... Or so
I thought.*

They invalidated contracts,
made me sign new ones that
weren't legally binding, and
tricked me with worthless
promissory notes... I was
nothing but prey for each
and every one of those
ravenous hyenas...



They
played
me for
a fool.

... And in just a year, I had bankrupted my father's entire company.

That's why
there's only
one way to
continue living



That experience brought
me to my senses. There
is no Grand Buddha in this
world. No matter how hard I
pray, no one will stretch out
their hand to help me.

That is
our cruel
reality!



Find all those out
there weaker than
you and exploit
them for all they
are worth!

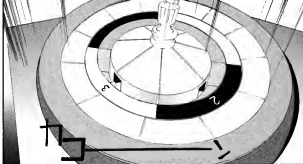
Yes, our world is just another
round of this LIAR GAME!



THE
MOMENT
OF TRUTH



!!

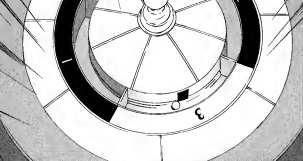


I knew all along that you dropped the ball into pocket 2!



HAHA
AAAA-
HAHA

This game
is over
for you!



THREE!?

TH-



ALL 300
CHIPS
THAT THE
WESTERN
ARMY
WAAGED
ARE
AWARDED
TO THE
EASTERN
ARMY!



AAAAH!
THE BALL
LANDED IN
POCKET 3!



THE EASTERN
ARMY WINS
THE ROUND!

that you
would bet
on 2.

I knew
all along



That was your
way of trying to
catch me lying,
wasn't it?

Remember how you would
keep making me guess things
like "Is it number 1?" and
"Number 2, right?"
and so forth?



I have this
strange habit
of batting my
eyes when I lie.

After all,







It's more like
I never had
that habit to
begin with.



WHAT!?



Yeah,
she did,
didn't she?

Ah...

Fukunaga
was the
one who
did—



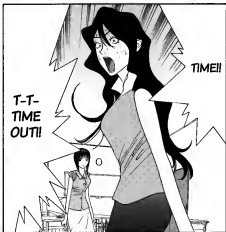
WAAAH!
HOLD IT!

I don't do
anything special
with my eyes
when I lie.



In order
to trick you,
Ms. Kosaka.

Because I
suggested it



Neo doesn't
blink or anything
like that when
she lies!

The truth
hurts, doesn't it?

The first couple
of losses were just a bait
to convince you, and then
Neo closed in from behind
for the win... That was
our intent all along.

But that lie
was the perfect
way to make your
betting entirely
predictable.

... To
Thank

Well it looks like
"harvest time" has
come is just as good
at notting elapsed as
actually being elapsed

The biggest question
was whether Neo's
ending would be
up to par.

she like the the

You
got it.

fell for it
completely?!

You're saying
that this was
all according
to a plan?

Yes...
about?



This game
isn't over
yet!!

Let's go,
right now!!

I still have 88
chips, and I'm
going to make
a comeback!!

No... the
winner has
already been
decided.



DAMN
IT ALL

!!!



make a
comeback
with just
88 chips.

You
can't



When I'm up as designated dealer, I'll bet only on the winning number... That way, no matter how you bet, none of my chips will go to you.

CHIP SCORE

EASTERN ARMY

WESTERN ARMY

726

88

Since all I have to do is protect this land, I'm going to play it safe.

So then, your only hope to try to make a comeback would be when you're the dealer, Mr. Kamada. But how would you do that?

You're forced to place all 88 chips on the table.

The best you can do is to bet all the chips you have all at once.

You have one more turn as dealer after that, so naturally you'll have to bet all 176 of those chips again.

If you're lucky, the best win that you can land will multiply your chip total to 176.

You cannot catch up.

My chip total will still be 400.

Should you win that last match, you will own 352 chips at most.



**The Eastern
Army wins.**

*As you can
see, the winner
has already
been decided.*



*I fall
right into
someone's
trap!*

*Right when I'm
about to win...
they trick me.*

*It's
always
like this!*

Always
trying to save
themselves

And it's no surprise!
People are always like
this! Always trying to
push people weaker
than themselves
into the pit!

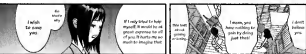
I just had to
go and believe
Fukunaga's
damned offer
for help!

After all the
painful losses I
have already
suffered.

How could I
be so stupid?!

That
is not
true!

And I knew all along
that there isn't a single
human being who really
wants to help me!



WAAAAAAAAAH!!!





Chapter 83

Ambition



Mr. Fukunaga
and I were able
to convince Mr.
Kondo and make
an acceptable
concessions.

During the
4th round of the
Bureau's Battle
"Shooting
Kondan".

The final
score was
726 to 88.

There were still four
rounds remaining, but
as the Western Army
had lost all chances
of winning, we both
continued to bet single
chips to end the game.

CHIP SCORE

EASTERN ARMY

WESTERN ARMY

726

88

Thus, the Revised
Round came to
a close with our
team, the Eastern
Army, claiming
an overwhelming
victory.



But Mr. Abikawa
was farken for
some reason.

THAT WAS
INSANE!!



And, well, he had
every right to be.
I had earned out my
play alone with Mr.
Fukunaga, never
having met a word
about it to Mr.
Abikawa. .

... from
meeting me
then with
Yokoyu in
that last
round!

You
really
had me
worried
back
there!

And to
partner with
Fukunaga, of
all people!



It was
then that
he learned
I was here,
on purpose.

He only
learned
of the plan
during the
time out.

TIME!



You've practically
upfed me through
this entire game,
after all.

But I wanted
to fight without
having to rely on
you for once,
Mr. Abikawa.

... Yes,
I could
have.

... Look, you
could have at
least mentioned
that you had
a plan.







if Mr. Fukunaga had betrayed me, he wouldn't have had a sure chance to win with Mr. Kosaka.



When she chose
him, she was
sure that he was
the person who
would win.

When she chose
him, she was
sure that he was
the person who
would win.



She had chosen
him, and she was
sure that he was
the person who
would win.

She had chosen
him, and she was
sure that he was
the person who
would win.



As
for the
second
reason...



It would have
been easy for
him, and getting Mr.
Kosaka to believe
his own story
wasn't easy
either.

Mr. Kosaka
would have
been sure that
the winning
number was...

she'd realize
that that still
leaves numbers
1, 3, and 4! The
ball could be
anywhere!



he has a
crush on you,
Mr. Akiyama!

is because

His feelings
are genuine.

I know because
I was watching
him very carefully.

WHAT?!

R-
Really? E-
Eh?

If all goes
well, I'm sure
Mr. Akiyama will be
very grateful for
your help.

Mr. Akiyama
doesn't
know
about
this.

... I think
you've got this
whole thing
backwards...

He wants the
same thing every
woman wants, and
that's to look beautiful
in front of the man
she likes.

You
really had
no idea,
 huh?

But
I thought
you were
entirely
my idea.

What?

That's why I
could be sure that
Mr. Fukunaga wouldn't
bring himself to go
against you, Mr.
Akiyama.

For that
brief moment,
his face was
flustered just
like one of an
innocent girl
in love.



Let's hurry!

All it's almost time for us to receive our savings!

Haah!



You're abnormally sharp and discerning, Mr. Akiyama, but it's as if you were completely clueless when it comes to women's feelings.

Yes, that's right.



and, as promised, used them to cover the three members of the Western Army.



With the financial cover, we obtained our spoils —



You can all safely go back to your everyday lives.

... That should do it. Everyone in the Western Army has had their claims cleared.



Mr. Fukunaga was the only one who pushed from the game, earning 10 million yen.



As a result, neither Mr. Akiyama nor I was able to repay our debt from the game and we each went 100 million yen further into debt.



It was enough to pay off Mr. Nishida's 100 million debt, Mr. Kosaka's 100 million debt, and Mr. Kikuchi's 100 million debt.



Altogether, the amount of money remaining to pay was 604 million.

Western Army's cash	300 million
Mr. Nishida's debt	194 million
Mr. Kosaka's debt	100 million
Mr. Kikuchi's debt	110 million

Mr. Fukunaga's cash	100 million
+ Mr. Fukunaga's earnings	10 million
814 million	



Sorry
for every-
thing...

So
sorry...



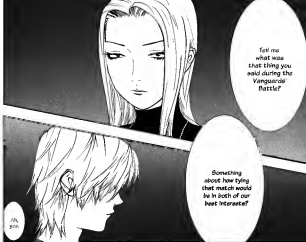
I'm
sorry
too...

After all we did
to try to hurt
you people...



the stronger my
wish to end this
game as soon as
possible becomes.

the more
I watched
the tears
roll down
their cheeks.



Tell me
what was
that thing you
said during the
Vanguard
Battle?

Something
about how tying
that match would
be in both of our
best interests?

Ah,
yes.



this
particular
side is mostly
for show, but...

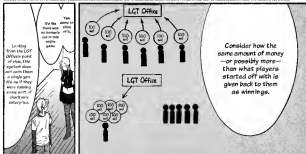
...through

with the
intent to be
very close to,
but not the
same as, gaming

Clearly,
that unique,
underlying
system was
designed

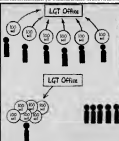
This book
is the entire
series of games
we've played
until now.

REPRODUCED WITH THE WRITER'S (COLLECTOR'S) PERMISSION OF A CHANGING GAME 'TAKES A PRECIOUS CUT' OF COMMISSION FROM THE DAILY NEWS



Looking
from the L&T
Office's point
of view, this
experiment alone
costs more than
a single game.
We see if they
were making
money with
their own
efforts.

Yes,
it's the
same as
the L&T
Office's
point of
view.



Consider how the
same amount of money
—or possibly more—
than what players
started off with is
given back to them
as winnings.

The fact is,
the LGT Office
has laid all sorts
of traps to rip that
money back out of
the players' hands.

But that's
what they
want you
to think.



It's the threat
of death that
makes it so easy
to get the
money out of
the players' hands.

And that's
the first rule from
the LGT Office:
Winners die.

What exactly
is the dealer
after in all
this...?



So I
got to
thinking...



Maybe
right.

Instead of extracting
a steady stream of cash
from players, the dealer
wants the players' cash
all at once.



When the money
is taken out of the
players' hands, they
can't play anymore.
And the dealer can
use the money to
do whatever he wants.
That's the real goal.



Although
the winners
are few, their
earnings are
enormous.



When all
is said
and done,
we have a
handful of
winners and
a ton of
losers.



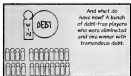
Each
winning player
wins a million
dollars.



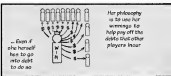
they make a killing
and fund this
tournament.
Now.



THE LGT
Office truly
has black market
connections by
which to collect
all the debt owed
by these players.

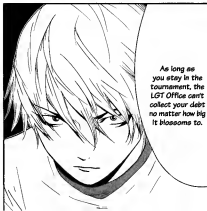


And what do
they lose? A bunch
of debt-free players
who were eliminated
and one winner with
tremendous debt.



... Even if
she herself
has to go
into debt
to do so.

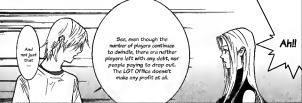
Her philosophy
is to use her
winnings to
help pay off the
debt that other
players incur.



As long as
you stay in the
tournament, the
LGT Office can't
collect your debt
no matter how big
it blossoms to.



... the
tournament
isn't over.



And
not just
that...

See, even though the
number of players continues
to decline, there are neither
players left with any debt, nor
people paying to drop out.
The LGT Office doesn't
make any profit at all.

Ah!!



The
LGT Office
would go
bankrupt.

In business
terms, this
is called
a non-
performing
loan.



No matter what
black market
connections the
Office may have,
there's no way to
get that kind of
money out of a
single person.

Astronomical
Debt

What
about our
winner who has
a debt ranging
somewhere in
the billions?



With
enough
damage,
we'll drive
the LGT
Office
down.



Anyway,
it should be
our aim for all
we can to prevent
money pouring back
to the Casino...
because that'll
lose us fight
to the Office.

That's why
ending the
Vaquero's
Bubble is a
big win-win
for both sides.



this
entire
method
only applies
given the real
objective of the
LGT Office
is to make
money—

Of
course.



There's
nothing
bettering
this...

I know
what
you'll
say—
but —

At least
a debate.

while I get
to accomplish
my underlying
objective.

This way,
you get to
keep your
precious
money



You aren't
trying to become the
"last person standing"
in this tournament,
are you?

You...



What makes
you feel the need
to go that far?







TO BE CONTINUED